**Sonnet XVII**

I do not love you as if you were salt-rose, or topaz,  
or the arrow of carnations the fire shoots off.  
I love you as certain dark things are to be loved,  
in secret, between the shadow and the soul.  
  
I love you as the plant that never blooms  
but carries in itself the light of hidden flowers;  
thanks to your love a certain solid fragrance,  
risen from the earth, lives darkly in my body.  
  
I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where.  
I love you straightforwardly, without complexities or pride;  
so I love you because I know no other way  
  
than this: where I does not exist, nor you,  
so close that your hand on my chest is my hand,  
so close that your eyes close as I fall asleep.

Pablo Neruda

**Assignment:**

Think about the various representations of love in the novel (i.e. physical, spiritual, maternal, fraternal, patriotic…).

Tita / Pedro

Rosaura / Pedro

Tita / John

Mama Elena / the mulatto

Gertrudis / Juan

Tita / Roberto / Esperanza

Tita / Nacha

Tita / Chencha

The Federales / the Revolutionaries (love of country)

Using beginning words and phrases from Neruda’s love poem to structure your poem, write a love poem from the point-of-view of a character from the novel (i.e. Pedro’s love poem to Tita or Tita’s to Esperanza). Your poem should include details from the text that are indicative of the relationship.